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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/704,761      | 11/03/2000  | Sang-Seog Kang       | IK-011              | 4364             |

7590 08/21/2002  
Fleshner & Kim  
P O Box 221200  
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200

EXAMINER

ABDULSELAM, ABBAS L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2674

DATE MAILED: 08/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/704,761

Applicant(s)

KANG, SANG-SEOG

Examiner

Abbas I Abdulsalam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. A certified copy of a foreign document has been received.

### **Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103**

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caldwell et al. (USPN 5153572) in view of Gruodis (USPN 4785519).

Regarding claim 1, Caldwell teaches a touch sensitive control circuit (10) including comparators (U2, U3), and a detection means (102) for detecting a voltage signal output (72). See col. 3, lines 8-25 col. 4, lines 17-22, 50 and Fig 1a. Caldwell teaches that the detection means also has time delay means expressed in terms of capacitor (122) and resistor (123). See col. 5, lines 25-26. Caldwell teaches the detection means in terms of a switching of either outputs (83) or (85). See col. 4, lines 66-67. However, Caldwell does not disclose a comparison means for compensating the level of a reference signal for a variation in temperature such that a wave shaped signal is produced as a result of the comparison. Gruodis on the other hand teaches an RC circuit including a touch responsive plate, providing a pulsed output of a gating circuit, which is altered as a function of a capacitive value of the touch plate. Gruodis further teaches that the altered pulse is applied to comparators. See col. 3, lines 6-14. In addition, Gruodis teaches

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thermal protection circuit (22) in which at elevated temperature, a capacitor with a large negative temperature coefficients adjusts the signal. See col. 5, lines 33-42 and Fig 1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Caldwell's touch-sensitive control circuit to include Gruodis' touch responsive plate configuration along with the thermal protection mechanism. One would have been motivated in view of the suggestion in Gruodis that the touch responsive plate and thermal protection mechanism perform the desired compensation of a reference signal due to temperature variation. The use of touch response plate and thermal protection helps touch controlled electronic switches as taught by Gruodis.

Regarding claim 2, Caldwell teaches the charging of a capacitor after a user contacts a touch pad (32). See col. 2, lines 44-47

Regarding claims 3-4, Caldwell teaches a user touching on pad (30), a comparator (U3), and output (72) expressed with respect to reference voltage at junction (66). See col. 3, lines 27-38.

Regarding claim 5-7, Gruodis teaches comparators (15, 16), sense detector (14) and flip-flop (101) producing a signal output pulse in response to a change in the output of the inventor (78). See col. 7, lines 19-20 and Fig 2.

Regarding claim 8, Caldwell teaches an output (92) that is connected through a diode (96) to the base (98) of a transistor Q1. See col. 4, lines 1-2 and Fig 1b.

### **Conclusion**

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered to applicant's disclosure.

The following arts are cited for further reference.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,933,102 to Miller

U.S. Pat. No. 5,973,417 to Goetz et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,119,678 to Marchand

U.S. Pat. No. 6,396,506 to Hoshino et al.

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to **Abbas Abdulsalam** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-8591**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richard Hjerpe**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4709**.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314**


Hand delivered responses should be brought to crystal park II, Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology center 2600 customer Service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Abbas Abdulsalam

Examiner

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**RICHARD HJERPE**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**